

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ARAE-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00
NSCE-00 SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 SAB-02 PM-04 H-01
INR-07 L-03 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /056 W
-----053453 141636Z /43

O R 141551Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY PANAMA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2774

INFO PANCANAL

USCINCSO

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EO 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PN

SUBJECT: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - OPPOSITION CALLS FOR DISCLOSURES

1. THE "INDEPENDENT LAWYERS' MOVEMENT", IN A JULY
12 LETTER TO FOREIGN MINISTER GONZALEZ-REVILLA MADE
PUBLIC YESTERDAY, HAS BLASTED THE GOP FOR "CLOSED DOOR
DIPLOMACY" AND CALLED FOR "PUBLIC MEETINGS WITH THE
ENTIRE NEGOTIATING TEAM."

2. THE LETTER NOTED FOREIGN PRESS REPORTS ON AGREE-
MENTS ALREADY REACHED, INCLUDING NOVEMBER 1974 CONCEPTUAL
AGREEMENT ON PROTECTION AND DEFENSE OF CANAL AND
SOFA AGREED SINCE MARCH 8, 1975, AND CONTINUES:
"...IF THE FOREIGN PRESS KNOWS IMPORTANT DETAILS OF
THE NEGOTIATIONS AND IT IS PRESENTED THAT WHAT HAS
BEEN NEGOTIATED IS GOOD FOR VITAL INTERESTS OF THE
REPUBLIC, WHY...THE OBVIOUS EFFORT TO KEEP IT SECRET
EXCLUSIVELY FROM PANAMANIAN?"

3. THE GROUP NOTED THAT FOREIGN PRESS HAS REFERRED
TO A JOINT US-PANAMA GUARANTEE OF CANAL NEUTRALITY
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AFTER 2000, AND CALLS THIS A "PROTOCOL...OF A CLASSIC
INTERVENTIONIST NATURE" UNDER WHICH "THE UNITED STATES
IS GUARANTEED A NEW CANAL PERPETUITY UNDER THE PRETEXT
THAT ONLY THEY CAN DEFEND THE NEUTRALITY OF THE CANAL."
"IS IT NOT CONTRADICTORY TO SPEAK ABOUT STRUGGLE AND
LIBERATION WHILE AT THE SAME TIME LEGALIZING THE
OCCUPATION OF EXTENSIVE PORTIONS OF THE COUNTRY BY

A SUPERPOWER?" THE SIGNERS INQUIRE.

4. LETTER WAS READ IN FULL ON A LOCAL TV NEWSCAST EVENING JULY 13. "ESTRELLA" FOR JULY 14 PUBLISHED FULL TEXT AND "STAR AND HERALD" EXTENSIVE EXCERPTS (TEXT FBIS/PANAMA PA 140419Y). GOP-GUIDED PAPERS IGNORED IT. THERE HAS BEEN NO COMMENT.

5. OTHER TREATY-RELATED COVERAGE LIGHT JULY 13-14 EXCEPT FOR BRIEF ARTICLE IN "CRITICA" WHICH WAS ESSENTIALLY A SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS HELD OR PLANNED IN WASHINGTON. THIS NOTED PARTICULARLY THAT LTC CONTRERAS WAS PARTICIPATING ALONG WITH PANAMA'S CHIEF CIVILIAN NEGOTIATORS IN ALL SESSION, NOT ONLY THOSE DEALING WITH MILITARY ASPECTS.

6. COMMENT: THE INDEPENDENT LAWYERS' MOVEMENT HAD A BRIEF FLING IN THE SEMI-PUBLIC DOMAIN IN LATE 1975-EARLY 1976, PUBLISHING A "BULLETIN INFORMATIVO" WHICH SPECIALIZED IN SCANDAL-ONGERING ABOUT THE TORRIJOS GOVERNMENT'S CORRUPTION, INEPTITUDE, ILLEGALITY AND BRUTALITY AND CONDEMNING ITS "SELL-OUT" ON THE CANAL ISSUE TO THE US. THIS ENDED IN THE JANUARY-FEBRUARY 1976 GOP-BUSINESS CONFRONTATION, WHEN FORMER LEADERS OF MOVEMENT WINSTON AND IVAN ROBLES WERE EXILED AND THE REST OF THE GROUP WENT INTO ECLIPSE. BUT IT LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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RETAINED ITS IDENTITY UNDER THE DIRECTION OF A NUMBER OF WELL-KNOWN NON-LEFT OPPOSITIONISTS, INCLUDING ULTRANATIONALISTS FABIAN ECHEVERS, MARIO GALINDO, CARLOS IVAN ZUNIGA, DIOGENES AROSEMENA AND JOSE ANTONIO SOSA, ALL OF WHOM SIGNED THIS LETTER. MANY OF THESE "PURE NATIONALIST" OPPONENTS OF CURRENT GOP TREATY POLICY HAVE BEEN GROWING INDIVIDUALLY MORE VOCAL IN THE MEDIA IN RECENT WEEKS. THIS LETTER IS FURTHER CONFIRMATION OF WHAT HAS LONG BEEN KNOWN--THAT THE GOP WILL FACE SOME SERIOUS DOMESTIC CRITICISM FROM THE RIGHT, AS WELL AS FROM THE LEFT, WHEN IT MUST FINALLY PUBLICLY ACKNOWLEDGE THE "LEGITIMATION" OF THE US MILITARY PRESENCE IN PANAMA UNDER A NEW TREATY AND OF A US "RIGHT" TO "INTERVENE" AFTER IT TERMINATES.

GONZALEZ

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PARTY LINE, NEGOTIATIONS, POLITICAL PARTIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 14-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977PANAMA05052
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
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Format: TEL
From: PANAMA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
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ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770757/aaaabxnt.tel
Line Count: 111
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Litigation History:
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Office: ACTION ARA
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Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
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Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
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Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 1861550
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TREATY NEGOTIATIONS - OPPOSITION CALLS FOR DISCLOSURES
TAGS: PINT, PFOR, PN, US, PQ
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/2a81566b-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
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